Shroff and Company as their Solicitors in the L&T case;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the said firm has also acted as solicitors to the Ambanis who wanted to have control of the L & T;

(c) whether Government are also aware that two partners of the said firm are directors in the Reliance Group of Companies;

(d) whether it was correct on the part of LIC to appoint a solicitor company which also have accepted briefs from their opponents; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Solicitors had themselves disclosed to the financial institutions that they had acted as solicitors to L&T in respect of public issue made by L & T regarding debentures of the aggregate face value of Rs. 820 crores. Institutions were also aware that they had acted for Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL/Reliance Petro Chemicals Ltd. (RPL) in respect of some other court cases.

(c) and (d) the Solicitors had disclosed to the financial institutions the association of their two partners as directors in 2 of the companies of the Reliance Group. M/s. Amarchand & Mangaldas & Hiralal & Shroff & Co. had been acting for the financial institutions, including LIC for many years in the various matters. At the stage of litigation in the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court no conflict of professional duty arose as a result of their Association with L & T/RIL/RPL/RCFTL. The action of the LIC was accordingly in order.

(e) Does not arise.

Post-Death claims pending with LIC

1681. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of post-death claims pending with LIC, how many of them are five years or more old; and

(b) what are the details of staps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the payment of claims of widows at their door steps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The number of death claims outstanding with the Life Insurance Corporation of India as at 31st March, 1989 were 14456 out of which 826 death claims were outstanding for more than 2 years which were further reduced as on 28th February, 1990 to 412. LIC does not keep separate statistics of death claims which are outstanding for 5 years or more. The Corporation also does not maintain the statistics of death claims State-wise. However, the zone-wise statistics covering all the States/Union Territories are maintained separately which, as on 31.3.1989 are as under:—

Zonal Office	State/Union Territory covered by Zonal Office	Death Claims outstanding as at 31.3.89	Death Claims outstanding for more than 2 years as at 31.3.1989.
Northern Zone	Delhi, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, J&K and Himachal Pradesh.	1857	83

Zonal Office State/Union Territory covered by Zonal Office	Death Claims outstanding as at 31.3.89		Death Claims outstanding for more than 2 years as at 31.3.1989.
Central Zone	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh	1701	61
Eastern Zone	West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Sikkim, Andaman & Nickobar, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur.	1639	42
Southern Zone	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry & Lakshadweep.	4635	248
Western Zone	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.	4624	392
	Total for Corporation:	14456	826

(b) In the normal course, all death claims get disposed of within a period of 2 years, except difficult cases namely where titles or other legal disputes are involved. The Corporation endeavours to settle as many as death claims as possible within 75 days of information of death. But in respect of early death claims where investigations and calling of more requirements become necessary, efforts are made to settle claims within a period of one year from the date of information of death. In order to settle the claims expeditiously, all possible help is given by the Agents, development Officers and the officials of the Servicing Branch to the claimants in getting the requirements completed. Thus the LIC has a proper system to ensure prompt settlement of claims.

Removal of Sail Chairman

1682. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of SAIL has been removed; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a new Chairman has been appointed in his place; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir, The Chairman, SAIL retired on expiry of his tenure of appointment.

(b) and (c) While the matter of appointment of new Chairman, SAIL is in process, Vice-Chairman (Project), SAIL has been appointed to dischage the duties of the office as Acting Chairman.